

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

In Re: ) IN CHAPTER 7 PROCEEDINGS  
CLAYTON S. ROBIEN )  
Debtors. ) BK 21-30714

**APPLICATION BY TRUSTEE TO HIRE SELF AS ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE**

The Application of Donald M. Samson, trustee, respectfully alleges:

1. That he is the duly qualified and acting trustee in this case.
2. Applicant requires the assistance of counsel for the following purposes:
  - a. To prepare a Motion to Compel Turnover for the non-exempt funds in debtor's bank account, comic books and action figure collection.
  - b. Any other matters that may arise requiring legal work.
3. It is in the best interest of this estate and its economical administration that your applicant be authorized to act as attorney for the estate.
4. The Court has the power to authorize said employment pursuant to 11 U.S.C. Sect. 327(d) which reads:

“The court may authorize the trustee to act as attorney or accountant for the estate if such authorization is in the best interest of the estate.”

5. There is cause to permit the trustee to employ himself as attorney and such employment is in the best interest of the estate because such employment will result in substantial cost savings, expedited administration and is warranted due to the trustee's law firm's existing administrative involvement.
6. Applicant is an attorney at law duly admitted to practice before this Court and other necessary state and federal courts in this jurisdiction and has a particular expertise with regard to bankruptcy, corporate reorganization and debtor/creditor matters in cases under the Bankruptcy Code.
7. The normal hourly billing rate of applicant's law practice at the time of this application is \$275.00 per hour. It is contemplated that the attorney will seek compensation based upon normal and usual hourly billing rates as adjusted from time to time. It is further

contemplated that said attorney will seek interim compensation as permitted by 11 U.S.C. Sect. 331. Applicant is informed and believes that the hourly rate of applicant's law practice is reasonable in light of the current hourly rates charged by other attorneys in the Southern Illinois area.

WHEREFORE, applicant prays that applicant and his law practice be authorized to act as attorney for the estate with compensation for such legal services to be paid as an administrative expense in such amounts as this Court may hereafter determine and allow upon application or applications to be filed by said attorney.

DATE: 05/25/22

/s/ Donald M. Samson  
DONALD M. SAMSON, Trustee  
226 W. Main St., Ste., 102  
Belleville, IL 62220  
618-235-2226

**DECLARATION OF DONALD M. SAMSON, ATTORNEY**

I, DONALD M. SAMSON, declare:

1. I am a solo practitioner with offices located at 226 West Main Street, Ste. 102, Belleville, Illinois, and am the trustee in this case.
2. Applicant is an attorney at law fully admitted to practice before this Court and other necessary state and federal courts in this jurisdiction.
3. To the best of my knowledge, information and belief I am a disinterested person within the meaning of 11 U.S.C. Sect. 101 and am eligible to serve as counsel for the estate and the trustee pursuant to the provisions of 11 U.S.C. Sect. 327(d).
4. I do not hold a prepetition or other claim against the estate.
5. To the best of my knowledge, I have no connection with the debtor, creditors, or other party in interest, their respective attorneys and accountants, the United States Trustee for Region 10, or any person employed in the Office of the United States Trustee other than the applicant is on the panel of Chapter 7 trustees for the Southern District of Illinois. I have not in the past, and I do not plan in the future, to represent any related debtor or principals.
6. I have not received a retainer from the debtor, the estate, a principal of the debtor or a third party.
7. I do not have any interests adverse to the trustee, the estate or the debtor.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

EXECUTED this 25th day of May, 2022, at Belleville, Illinois.

/s/ Donald M. Samson  
DONALD M. SAMSON

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned certifies that on the 25th day of May, 2022, a copy of the foregoing document, Application by Trustee to Hire Self as Attorney for the Estate, was served upon the following either electronically or by first class mail, postage prepaid:

Michael Benson  
Attorney at Law  
801 Lincoln Highway, Ste. B  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

U. S Trustee  
Becker Bldg., Rm. 1100  
401 Main St.  
Peoria, IL 61602

/s/ Andrew Bushnell-Chamness